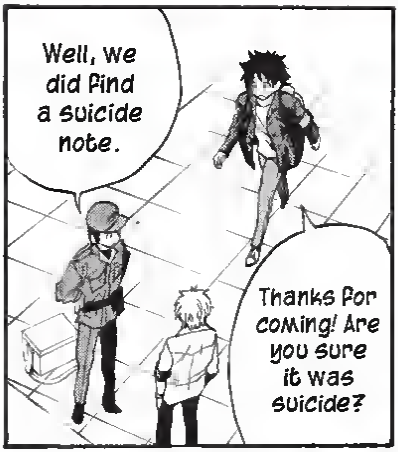
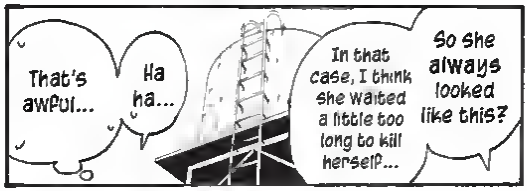
This way, sir... She hanged herself from the water tower ladder.
Where's the vic?
Grr...Munakata just kept going, so now it looks like I'M saluting Wajima...

Case 9: ⚜ The Stolen Face, Part 2

Whoa?!

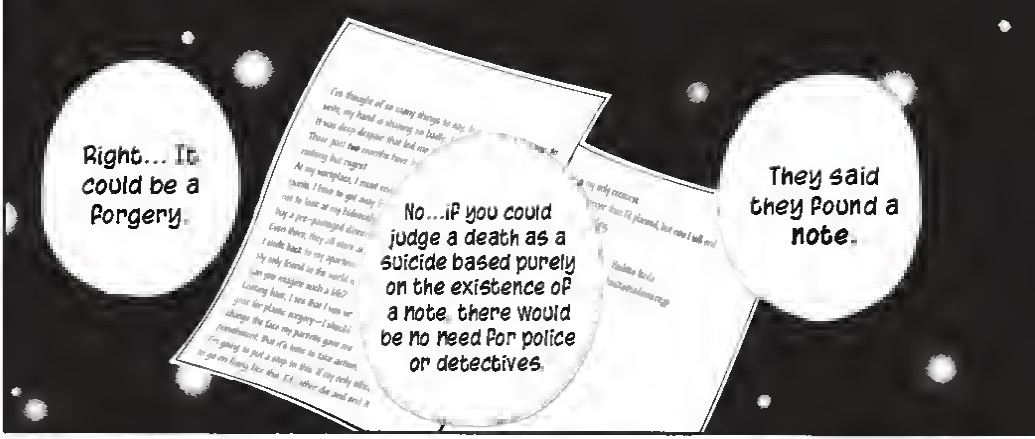

Well, we did find a suicide note.
Thanks for coming! Are you sure it was suicide?

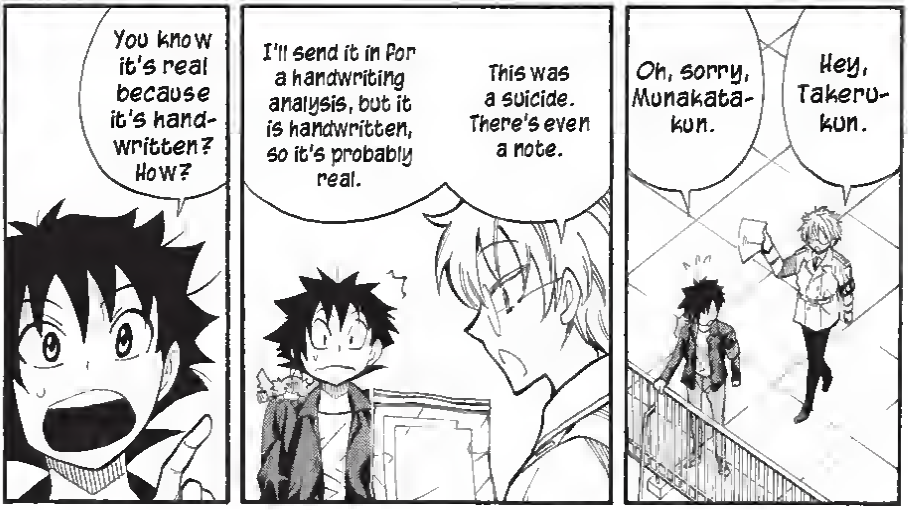
No, they haven't found signs of external damage to the face...
What happened...? Did she hit her face against something? Like, hard?


That's awful...
Ha ha...
In that case, I think she waited a little too long to kill herself...
So she always looked like this?

?!
No, this might not be a suicide.
ARF!

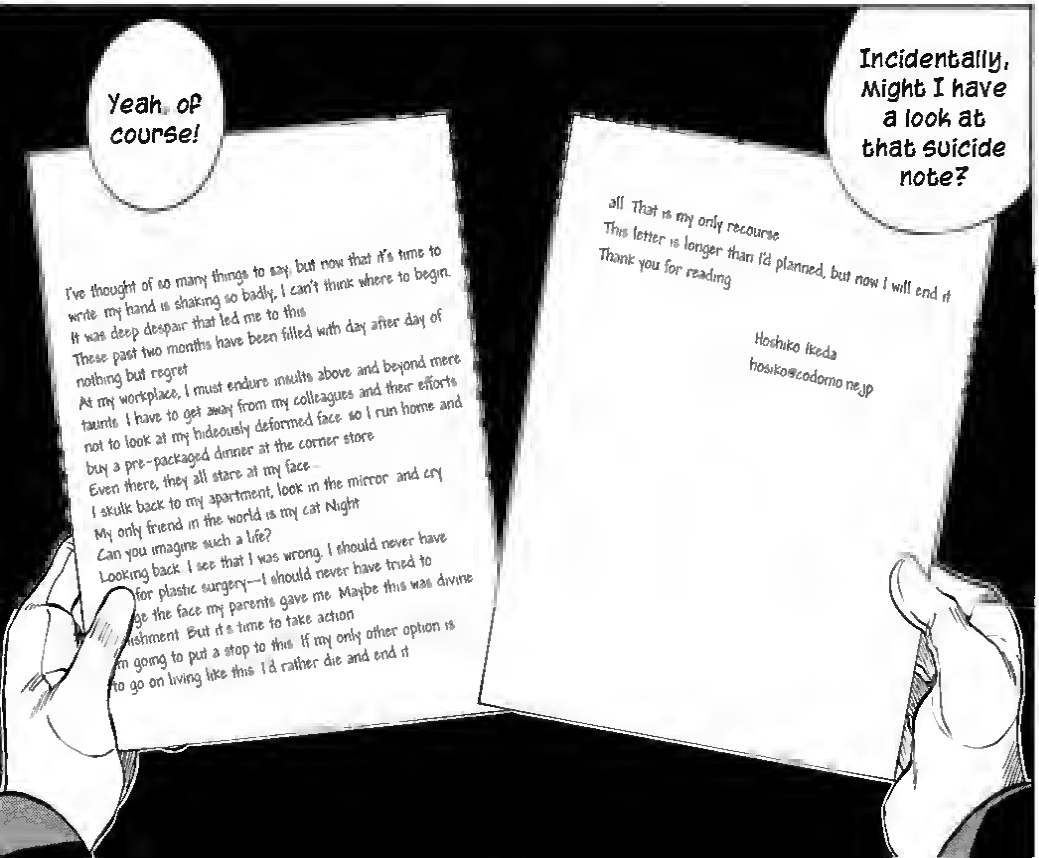
When someone climbs up to the roof to kill themself,
in most cases, they jump.
What makes you say that, Sherdog?
GRRR...
Only my 100-year-old detective instincts...
HOP
Oh! That's true.
If someone's gonna hang themself, I think they usually do it inside.
Or they'd go to a tree in a park or the mountains.
So we may assume that if one chooses the roof
ARF!
as a suicide location, he or she intends to jump.
And look. This building's rail isn't especially high.
I see... But hey, Sherdog...


Right... It could be a forgery.
No...if you could judge a death as a suicide based purely on the existence of a note, there would be no need for police or detectives.
They said they found a note.


You know it's real because it's hand-written? How?
I'll send it in for a handwriting analysis, but it is handwritten, so it's probably real.
This was a suicide. There's even a note.
Oh, sorry, Munakata-kun.
Hey, Takeru-kun.

I NEED A CAGE WHERE THE VICTIM IS EITHER REALLY HOT OR REALLY IMPORTANT
ARGH, I'M SO NOT INTO THIS
I think I'm really starting to understand how Mu-nakata-kun works...
...
If a killer was stupid enough to try that, he'd get himself caught without our help.
DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW THAT?
Uh, hello? If you're going to forge a suicide note, you'd type it up.
It doesn't take much for an analysis to prove a handwritten note was forged.

HEE HEE HEE...
...Quite so.
eventually, he wouldn't need Watson anymore.
Well, you know. If Sherlock Holmes had two partners,
What do you mean, Watson?
But I'm pretty happy about it.


Yeah, of course!
I've thought of so many things to say, but now that it's time to write my hand is shaking so badly, I can't think where to begin.
It was deep despair that led me to this
These past two months have been filled with day after day of nothing but regret
At my workplace, I must endure insults above and beyond mere taunts. I have to get away from my colleagues and their efforts not to look at my hideously deformed face so I run home and buy a pre-packaged dinner at the corner store
Even there, they all stare at my face...
I skulk back to my apartment, look in the mirror and cry
My only friend in the world is my cat Night
Can you imagine such a life?
Looking back, I see that I was wrong. I should never have for plastic surgery—I should never have tried to ge the face my parents gave me. Maybe this was divine nishment. But it's time to take action
m going to put a stop to this. If my only other option is to go on living like this, I'd rather die and end it
all. That is my only recourse
This letter is longer than I'd planned, but now I will end it
Thank you for reading
Hoshiko Ikeda
hoshiko@codomo.ne.jp
Incidentally, might I have a look at that suicide note?

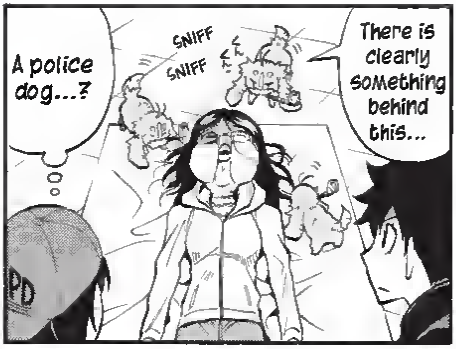
Hmmm... At a glance, it certainly seems legitimate...
...
It looks like... she'd lost all hope because of some failed plastic surgery.
It must be pretty hard on a woman...
She doesn't seem to have written where she got her surgery.
!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
From my analysis,
there are several unnatural points to this note.
What? So then...
Based on this note, my scales of deduction
lean heavily on the side of homicide!

Exactly!
...Got it.
We'll follow that line of reasoning for our investigation!

...
PFFT

ARF!
First, we have to inspect the body!
Right!

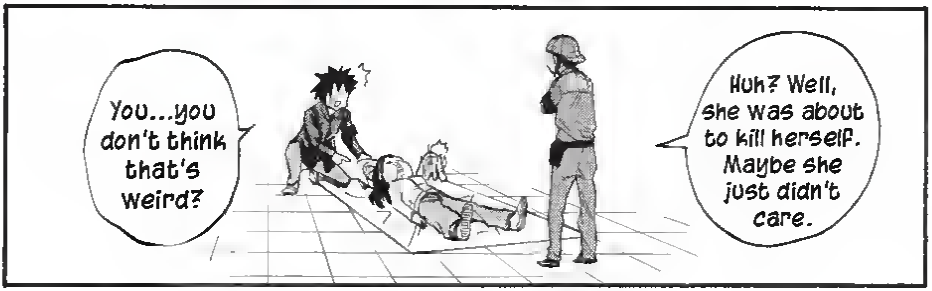
Hoshiko Ikeda's cause of death?
Asphyxi-ation.
PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
tied a rope to the ladder, and jumped.
And you're sure about that?
Yes. Apparently she climbed the water tower.
When is the estimated time of death?
We won't know exactly until the autopsy.
But looking at her, I'd say around 6a.m., give or take half an hour.
...She's not really dressed for going out.
Nope.
...


A police dog...?
SNIFF
SNIFF
There is clearly something behind this...
PD

But she came up to the roof to hang herself in just one layer of loungewear.
It's still cold this time of year.
TEP

Look, sir!!
It's still got its dry-cleaning tag on!!

!!
ARF!
GASP


You...you don't think that's weird?
Huh? Well, she was about to kill herself. Maybe she just didn't care.

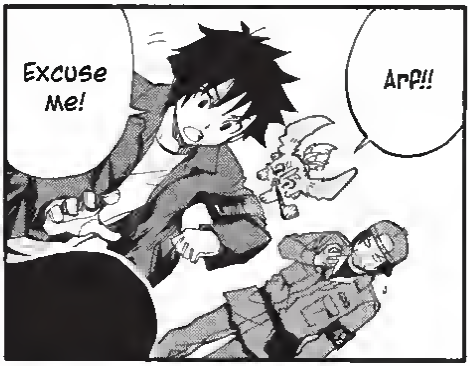
Arf!
I mean, she's wearing all those clunky accessories.
They're all over her neck and wrists!!

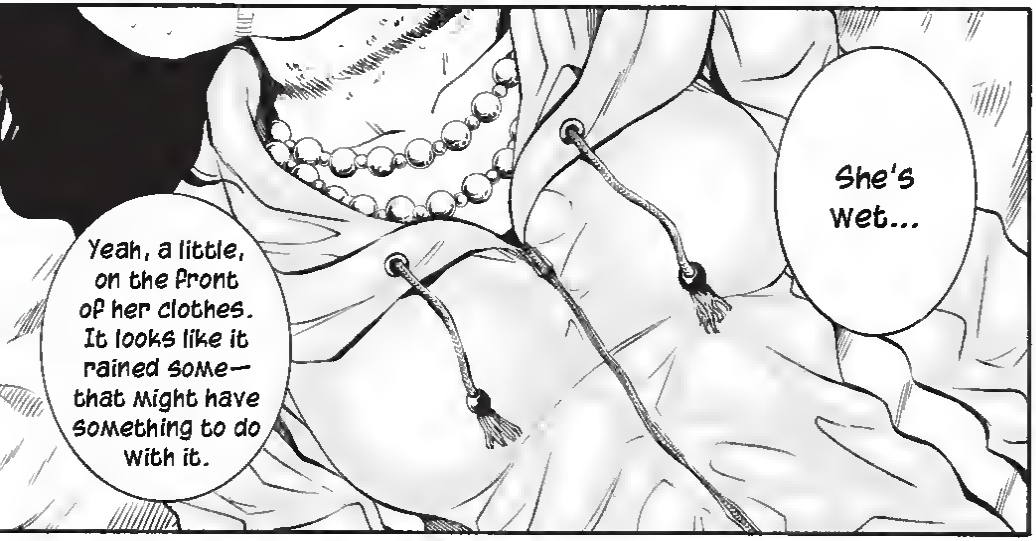
Even after making sure to change back into more comfortable clothes?

Maybe she was out late the night before and didn't take them off?
Good point...if she killed herself at six,

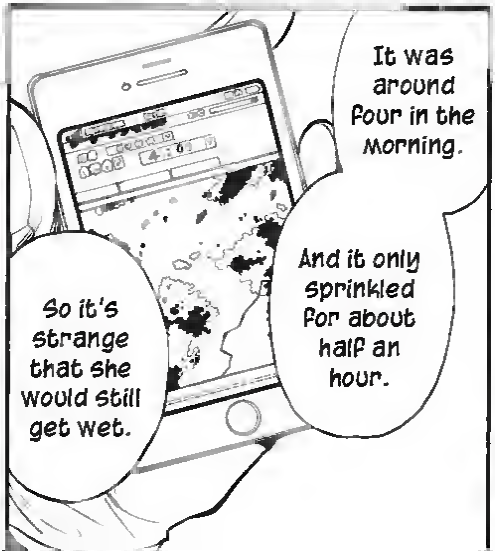
TAP
SLOOOW
Ah! Hey, runt! What are you...

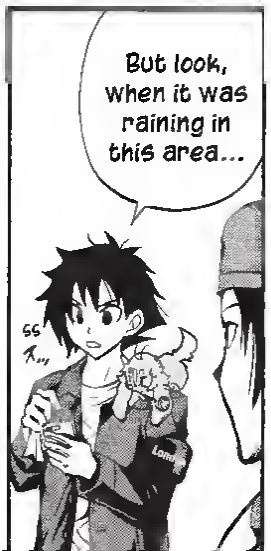
Hm?
Uh...yeah, I guess she would have taken off the clunky jewelry.

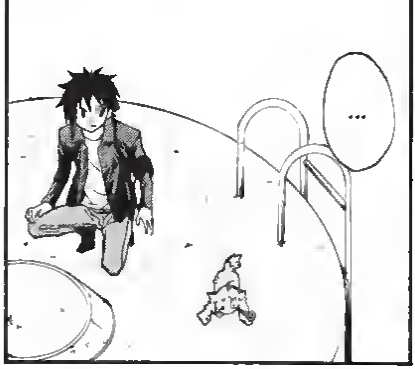

Excuse me!
Arf!!


She's wet...
Yeah, a little, on the front of her clothes. It looks like it rained some— that might have something to do with it.

Well, now that you mention it...
...

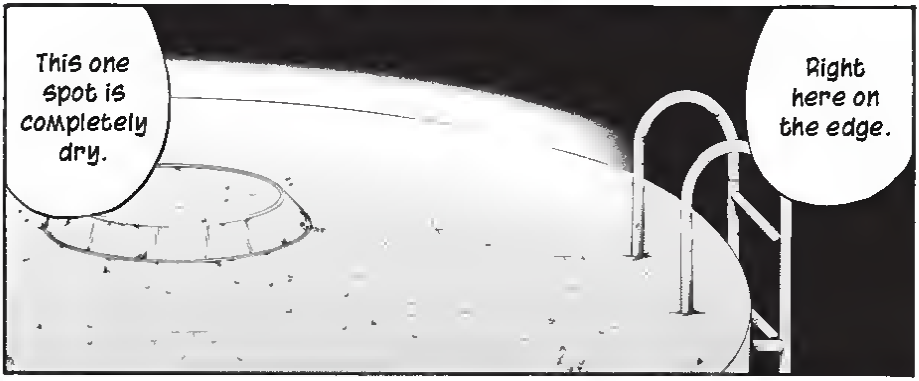

It was around four in the morning.
And it only sprinkled for about half an hour.
So it's strange that she would still get wet.


But look, when it was raining in this area...


...

No, that's Pine.
Do you mind if I climb the water tower for a second?

!
Look, Sherdog!


This one spot is completely dry.
Right here on the edge.

Next, let's check out the victim's apartment.
Yes, I'm starting to see what happened.
This crime is ripe with the possibility of murder.

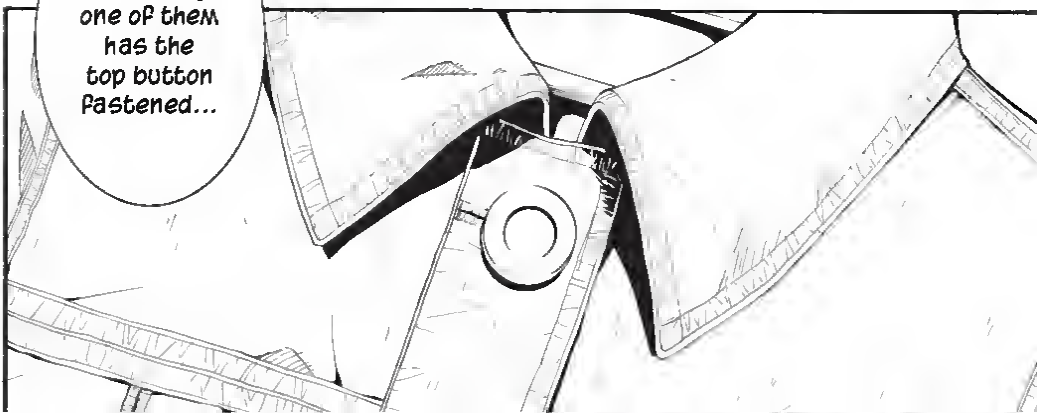
What, the second you're a detective, you think you get special privileges?
Demanding that we investigate the apartment of a suicide victim.
IKEDA
Argh...
DUH
ROOM?!
S... sorry.
Don't blame me if you get cursed for snooping around a suicide victim's...
IT'S DEAD! OH, THE BAD LUCK!!
A BLACK CAT...!!
SHI-SHI-SHI-SHI

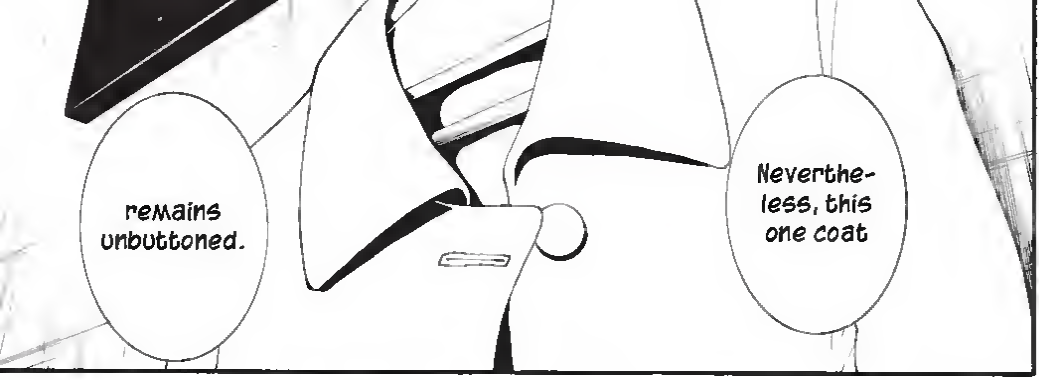
...
Then I think she would have taken it with her to the roof...
GLANCE
キョロ!!

I guess she wanted to take him with her when she died...
POOR THING.
Oh, this is Ikeda-san's pet cat.

GRRR..
She has five other articles of outerwear.

!
Watson, take a look at that coat.
Huh?


And every one of them has the top button fastened...


remains unbuttoned.
Nevertheless, this one coat

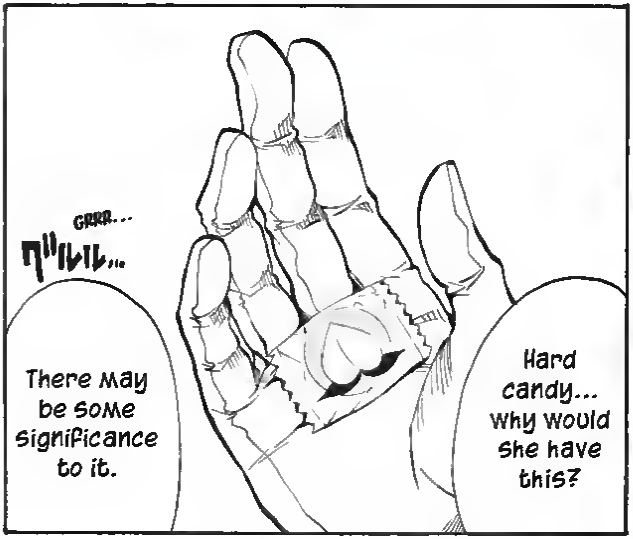
That someone killed her.
So you're saying that the departed Hoshiko Ikeda went out to meet someone wearing this coat

I'm gradually seeing the whole picture.
It's possible that someone other than the victim hung this coat...

What is he muttering to himself about?
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER

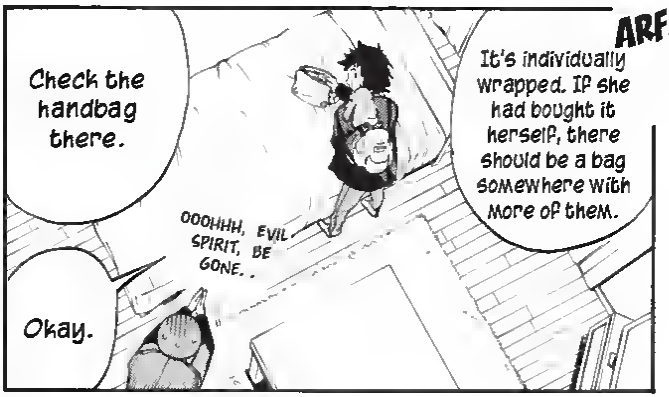
ARF!
You're getting better at this, Watson.
And now she's dressed in her normal clothes
as part of a scheme to make it look like she had never gone out, and never met anyone

Right!
Check the pockets. They may hold some clue as to where she went.
Gasp!! Maybe he's talking to the victim's ghost?!


GRRR...
There may be some significance to it.
Hard candy... Why would she have this?

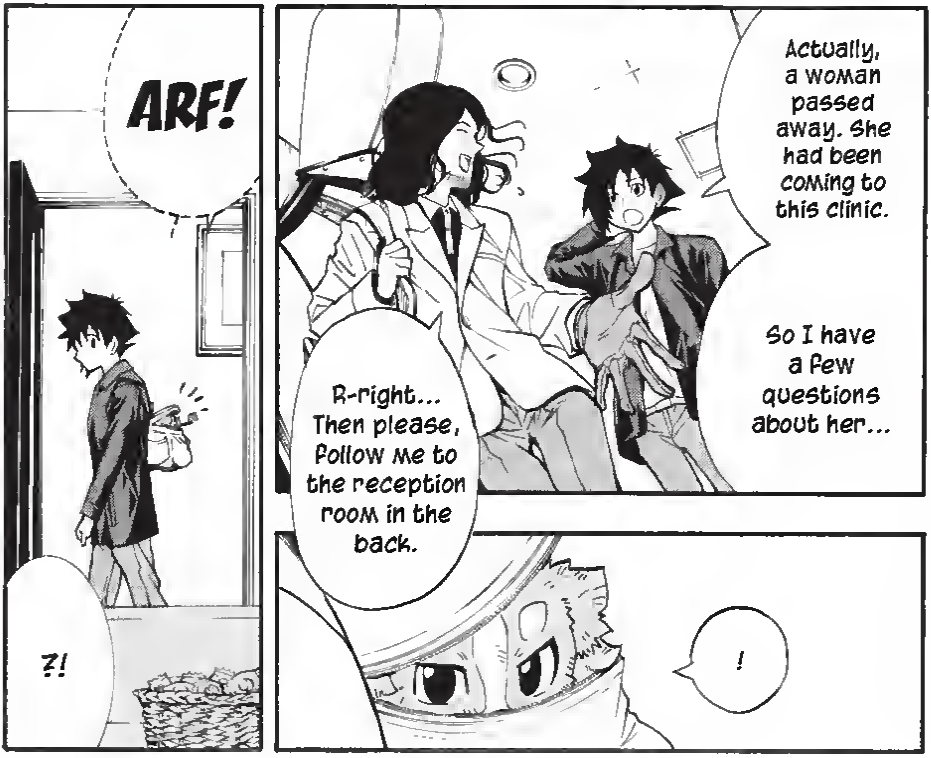
!
RUMMAGE

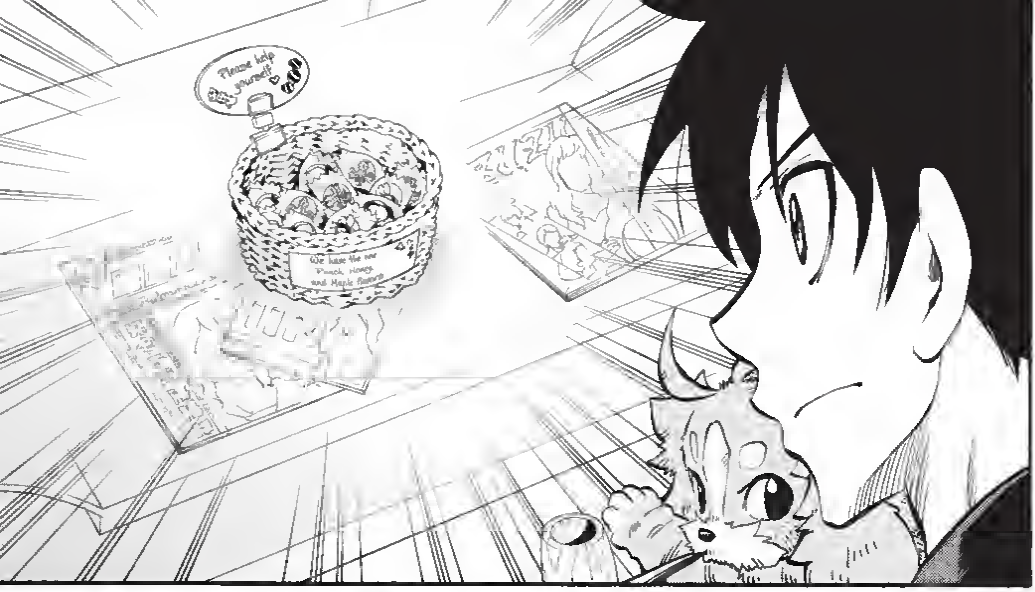
HM?
...I'm not finding a bag of candy.

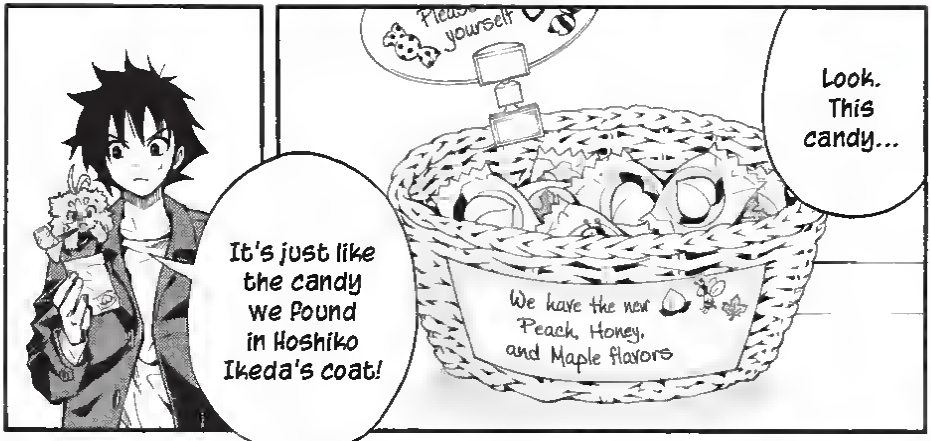

Check the handbag there.
Okay.
OOOHHH, EVIL SPIRIT, BE GONE..
ARF!
It's individually wrapped. If she had bought it herself, there should be a bag somewhere with more of them.

Hyper Beauty Clinic
Hyper Beauty Clinic...?
Hyper Beauty Clinic
Akane-sensei, there's someone here to see you.
What?
Traffic was worse than I planned for♪
Oh, good, I made it in time for my afternoon appoint-ments♡
BACK FROM GOLFING
Oh!
No.
You see, I'm...
...
Are you interested in cosmetic surgery?

No, no.
Not exactly.
Did something happen nearby...?
...
Oh...you're a police officer?


ARF!
?!
R-right... Then please, follow me to the reception room in the back.
Actually, a woman passed away. She had been coming to this clinic.
So I have a few questions about her...
!


Please help yourself
We have the new Peach, Honey, and Maple flavors


It's just like the candy we found in Hoshiko Ikeda's coat!
Look. This candy...
We have the new Peach, Honey, and Maple flavors

...
Yeah!

I believe the good doctor holds the key to this case.
After him, Watson!!